

Gary -- History



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Cover pictures by Elmer Budlove, Miss Catherine Brooks,
and Jim Daniels

T H I S I S G A R Y

Published in the interests of citizenship

b y

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GARY, INDIANA



Katherine Beckman

Many copies of this booklet have been
distributed free of charge to civic
groups, schools, and libraries.

Additional copies, 25¢ each



A CITY IS BORN

Elmer Budlove

At the turn of the century, crickets chirped and lizards left their odd three-tracked trail through the sands and swamps of what is now Gary. Only a few traders and missionaries, among them Father Jacques Marquette, had ever visited this southernmost end of Lake Michigan.

Six brief years later found the same spot a beehive of activity. The huge job of constructing a steel mill and a town to house and care for the hundreds of workmen and their families had begun. Engineers from the United States Steel Corporation had discovered this an ideal place for steel making because it was right in the center of all the raw materials needed and was the cross-roads for every manner of transportation.

The whole nation watched as a town was born. Everything about Gary was new and breath-taking. None of the old traditions and methods were going to hamper the planners and builders here. Streets were laid out, lovely parks for every part of the city were incorporated into the great dream. Schools planned by William A. Wirt were twenty years ahead of the times. A stretch of waste land became a town, and the early settlers named it after Judge Elbert H. Gary, Chairman of the Board of the U. S. Steel Corporation.

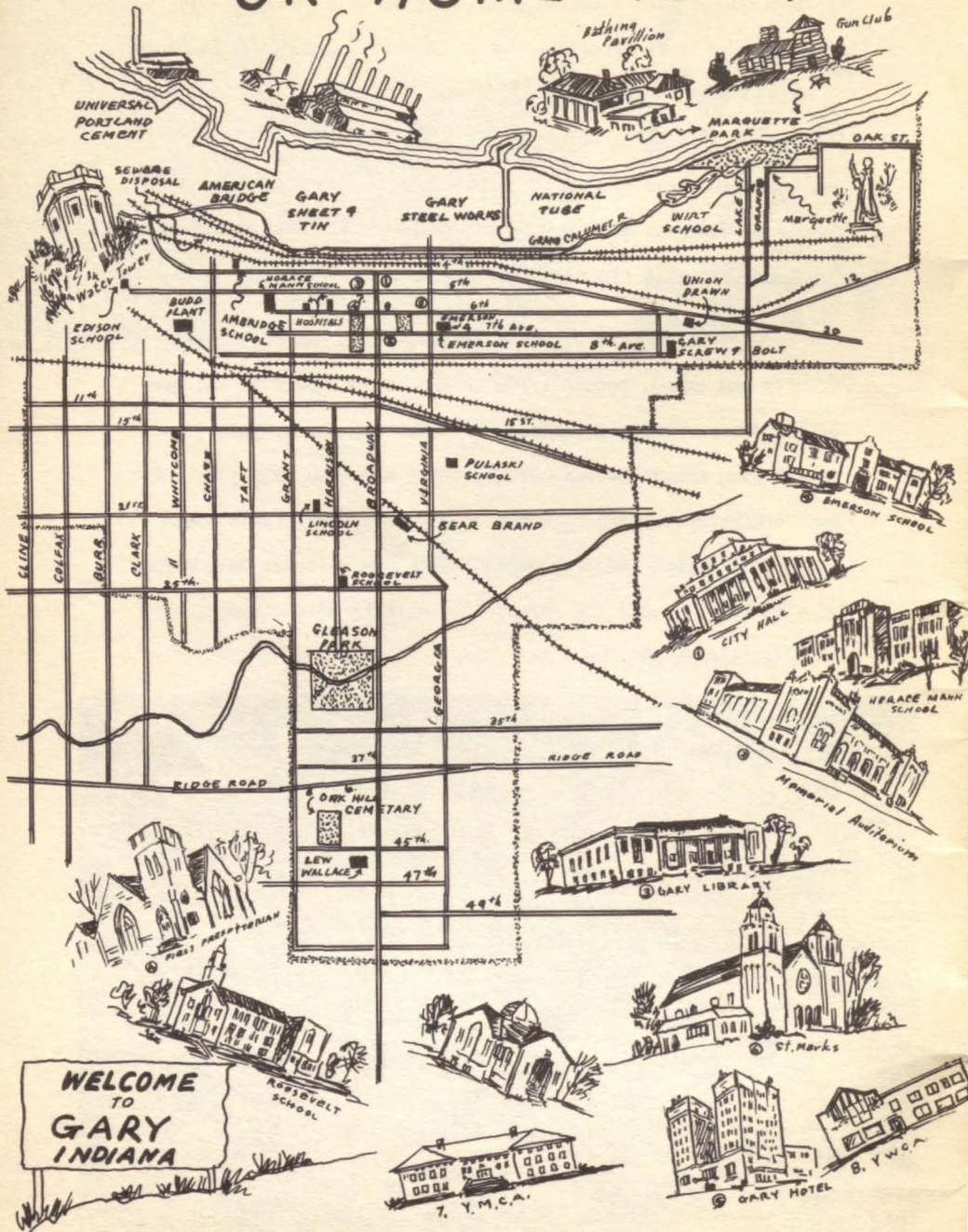
"Location" was the reason Gary was founded and why it grew to have the largest steel mill in the world. To many people who came here to live, "location" meant Lake Michigan with its miles of white sandy beaches, with swimming, boating and fishing at their best. It meant being only thirty miles from all the metropolitan advantages of Chicago. Later Gary's location became famous to hundreds of tourists who visited the dunes and picked the beautiful wild flowers that grew so abundantly.

Gary was a city of young people, people of every race, country and creed, people brave enough to "pioneer" in the new little town. When, in the year of 1906, someone stopped for breath long enough to take count, there were 334 people living and working here. Big as their dreams were, they would have laughed if anyone had prophesied that 46 years later Gary would have grown to become the second largest city in the state, with a population of 140,000.



Jack Simmons

OUR HOME TOWN



Facts for the Fact Minded

Gary's commercial center includes 2,100 retail and 118 wholesale establishments. The several banks and financial institutions have continued to increase their services to meet the needs of this rapidly growing city. The largest of these is the Gary National Bank, operating 8 branch banks in several outlying communities. Gary business district serves surrounding towns to the east and south, making up a trading area of about 190,000. Several good hotels make Gary a popular convention town and the modern "Gary Hotel" is the hub of many of the city's social and civic activities.

News Services

Six days every week 675 "young businessmen" pick up their newspapers and deliver them to over 43,900 homes. They are the retailers for Gary's only daily newspaper, the Gary Post-Tribune. 5,000 additional papers are sold at stands and mailed out, for a total circulation of 48,000.

Three weekly newspapers serving Gary are the Gary American, the Glen Park Herald and the Tolleston News.

Gary has two local radio stations, W.W.C.A. and W.G.R.Y.

People

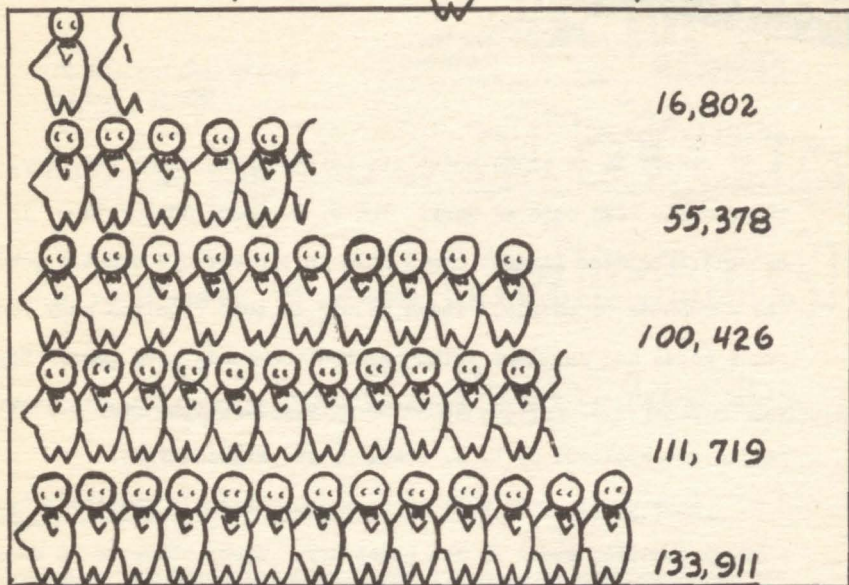
"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning
to be free,
The wretched refuse of your
teeming shore,
Send these, the tempest-tossed
to me;
I lift my lamp beside the
golden door."

These words, inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty, gave hope to the travel-weary thousands of foreign born who came to America to find freedom and dignity. Many of these people made their way to Gary early in the century and by 1910, people from 40 nations, speaking as many languages, comprised 50 per cent of Gary's population. At first these new Americans settled in their own national groups, but the second generation have largely broken away from national grouping. In Gary's progressive schools, they have learned our customs and language and have learned to cherish the freedom their parents won for them. They and the Negroes, many of whom came here to escape poverty in the South, are part of Gary's distinctive "personality."

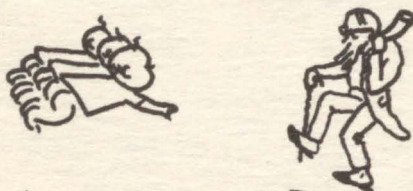
	FOREIGN BORN	NATIVE WHITE	NEGRO
1910	50 %	47.8 %	2.2 %
1940	15.5 %	66.1 %	18.4 %
1950	11.3 %	59.4 %	29.3 %

U.S. Census Figures

Population  = 10,000 people



Gary is a city of young people; only 25% are over 45.



Men outnumber women — 51% men, 49% women



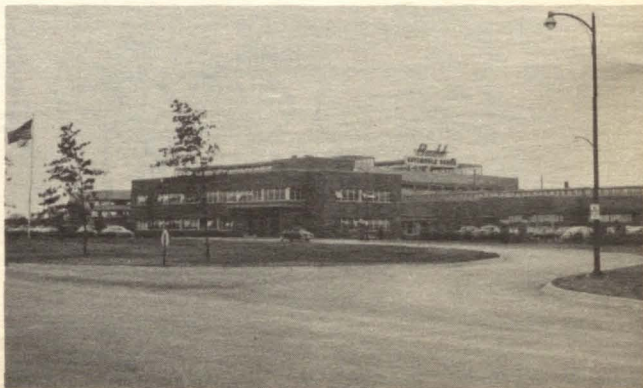
Industries

There is no doubt about it: without the steel industry, there would have been no Gary. The U. S. Steel Corporation, in establishing "The Largest Steel Mill in the World," created jobs for thousands of people. These people in turn required many consumer goods and services which created thousands more jobs. Steel was Gary for a long time, and even today, 33,000 of Gary's working people are employed by U. S. Steel or its subsidiaries.

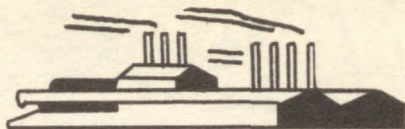
Many people felt that to be an economically healthy city, more diversified industry was necessary. Among those to do something about it were a group of businessmen and people from the steel company who formed the Gary Industrial Foundation. Since they organized in 1945, they have invested a great deal of time and money interesting outside companies in locating in Gary and encouraging new talent within the city.

Today there are well over a hundred industries other than the steel plants, producing more than 123 products. Gary is no longer a "one industry" town.

The Budd Company, one of Gary's new industries, employs 1,150 people.



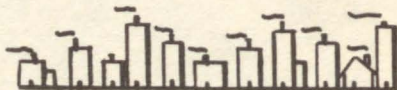
*U.S. Steel and Subsidiaries
employ 33,000*



8 companies employ 100-500 each



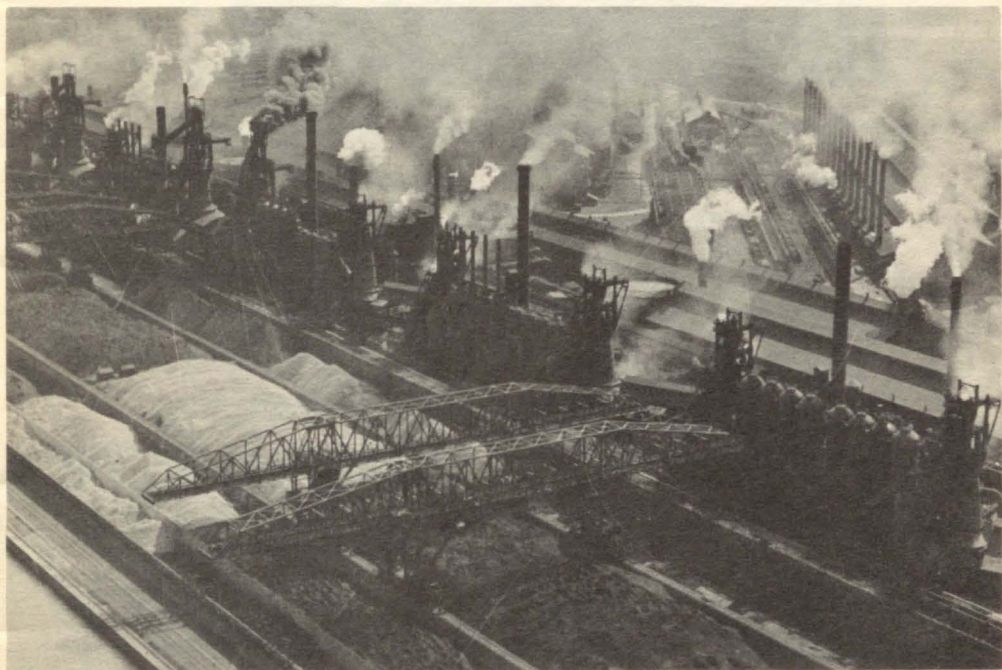
11 plants employ 50-100 each



118 businesses employ 50 or less



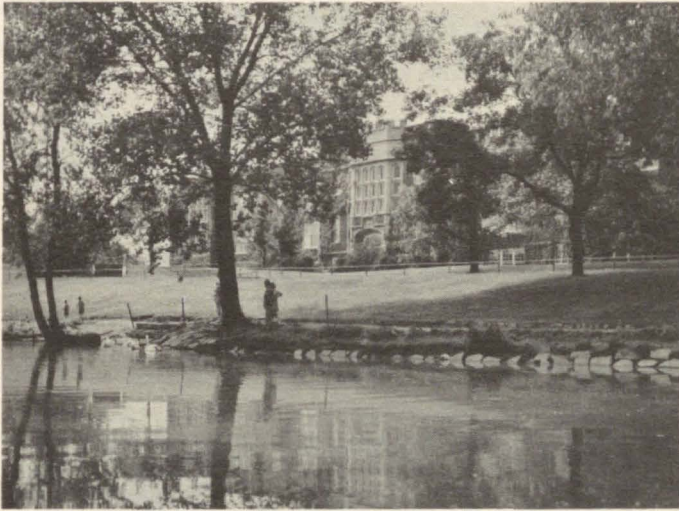
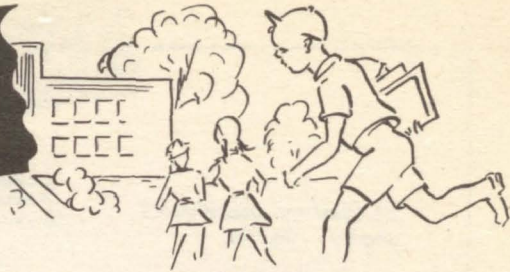
Lee Rein



Crawford Photos

Gary Works of the United States Steel Corporation

Schools



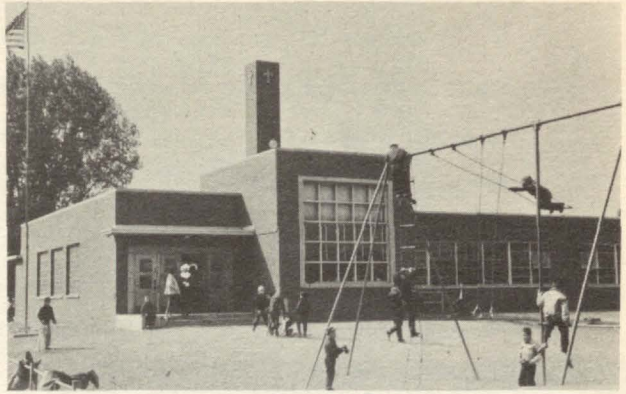
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Horace Mann School

Some cities are just beginning to adopt ideas that Dr. William A. Wirt, our first school superintendent, early incorporated in the Gary schools. Changes have taken place in the original system as the city has grown and the times have changed. Suggestions made by the two outside surveys, the Reavis Report and the Purdue Study, resulted in changes in many of our schools. Parent-Teacher groups and the City-Wide P.T.A. have helped plan important improvements. But the basic Wirt idea of the child-centered, community-centered school remains fundamental in Gary.

Graded by recognized tests, Gary schools rank with the best in the country. All Gary high schools have met the requirements necessary to belong to the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

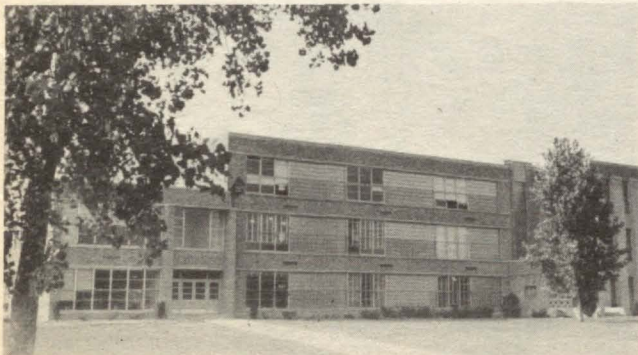
*St. Mary's of the Lake,
a new parochial school.*



The average active enrollment in the public schools is about 25,500 and 3,500 children are enrolled in the ten parochial schools. There is a predicted increase of 2,000 and more children a year. This increase, added to our already severely overcrowded schools, is of grave concern to all of us.

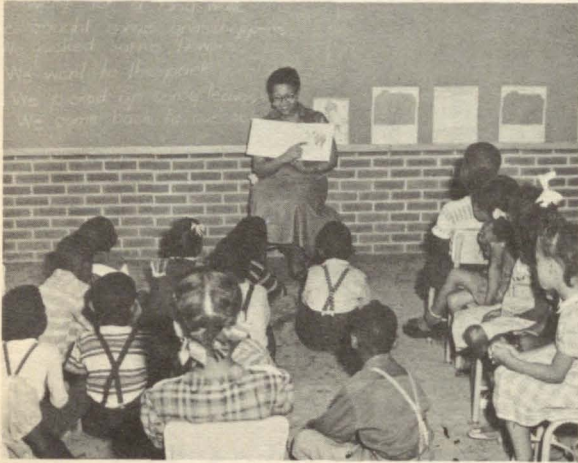
In cities all over the country the housing of school children is a serious problem, because the depression, and then the war, made it impossible to keep up repairs and new building. Gary's phenomenal growth has made this a critical situation here. Since a \$0.40 building levy was granted in 1947 we have spent a million dollars a year on buildings, but the need for additional rooms, repairs and new buildings continues to be imperative.

We now have 24 public schools, 8 serving all grades through high school, 16 serving only elementary grades.



William A. Wirt School

We have 825 teachers, many with more than 4 years' training. The uniform salary schedule is planned to encourage teachers to obtain further training and to remain in the system. The program of in-service training of all school personnel is one of the methods employed to help the schools keep up to date on new methods and changing needs. Parents are invited to participate in the "workshops" in which these problems are discussed.

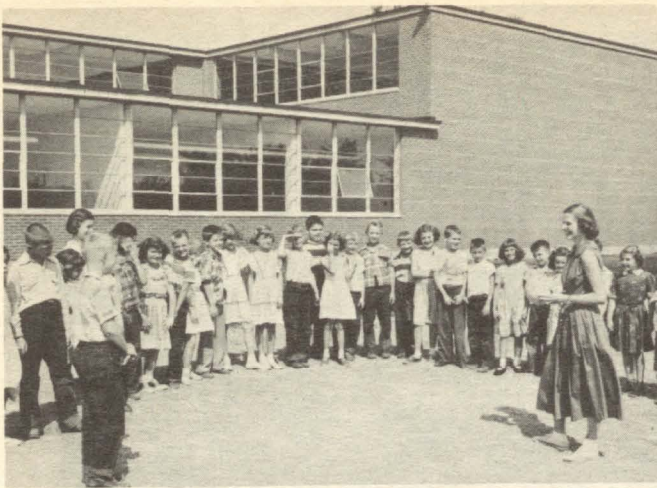


*Who wants to stay home?
School is fun!*
Douglas School

Modern methods help primary children learn to read and write. They progress by the "level" method which allows each child to learn at his own speed. There are 8 levels of work in the first three grades and each child may advance as rapidly or as slowly as his development indicates.

*Music is part of
the life of a Gary
school child. A
class at Ambridge
School.*





The Pittman Square School, one of Gary's new, modern schools.

Our high schools offer a broad curriculum. Not all subjects are available in every school, but a student can get such a subject in a nearby school. In addition to the commercial and pre-college courses, Gary schools have an unusually good vocational program. Unusual, too, is the way in which the steel mills, the building trades and the union contractors cooperate through an apprentice training plan to make this program successful.

There are many schools in the country which offer only the basic courses outlined above--or less. It is part of the Gary plan that many other opportunities be made a regular part of the school curriculum. There are auditoriums, art rooms, "home living" rooms, science rooms, and fine libraries. Two schools have well equipped metal shops, and all schools offer general shop to the grade school boys.

Our children's health is protected by a staff of two doctors, two dentists, and eleven nurses. The voluntary T. B. testing program makes it possible to detect and treat the disease in its earliest stages. Recently a voluntary blood-typing program was started and our "tat-typing" method is so successful that the Army is studying it.

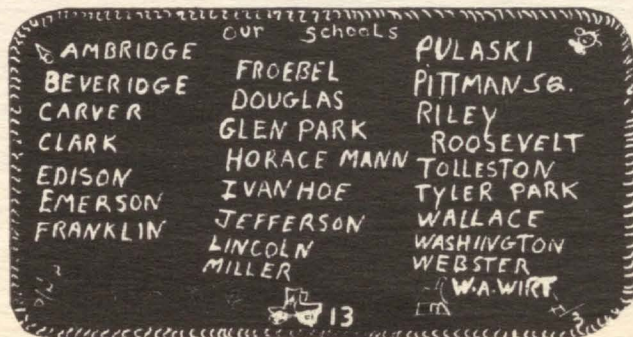


Here is young America.

The school system includes 5 special centers devoted to the training of mentally or physically handicapped children. There are also classes in the regular school centers for those needing help in seeing, hearing or speaking. About 176 home-bound children receive help from visiting teachers.

Gary's adult education program is considered the best in the state. In addition to high school subjects, classes are offered in many fields, such as sewing, art and ceramics. The schools work closely with the Indiana University Extension Center in Gary where hundreds of graduates continue their education.

Our schools are operated by a five-man board appointed by the mayor for four-year terms. The salary is \$200 a year. The School Board appoints the Superintendent of Schools and with his help, selects the teachers and other personnel.



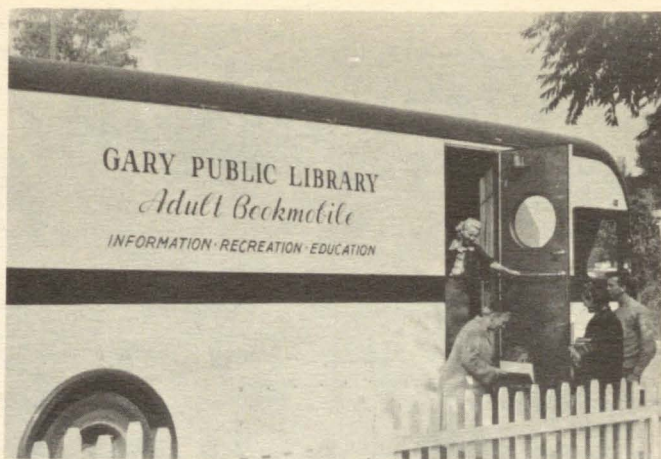
Free Library

Do you want to know the length of the Brooklyn Bridge? Or how to raise llamas in a tropical climate? The courteous, competent staff at the Gary Central Library will be glad to help you find the answers whether you phone or come in. This personal assistance, known as the reference service, is one of the reasons the library system in Gary is outstanding.



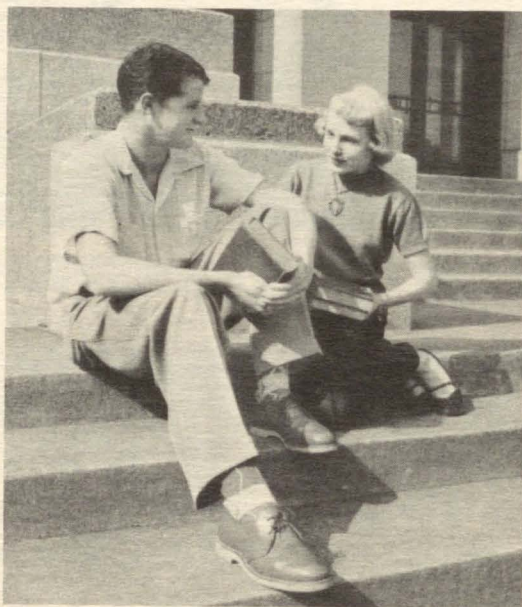
To the right of the pretty staff member is a machine which photographs a record of all books borrowed.

The Gary Public Library includes the Central Library, 8 branches, 1 Bookmobile and 3 trailers. There is a branch at U. S. Steel Corporation administered by the system, but financed by the Corporation. The system also serves parts of Lake and Porter Counties near Gary.



This Bookmobile travels to readers in the outskirts of the city with a changing selection of over 4,000 books.

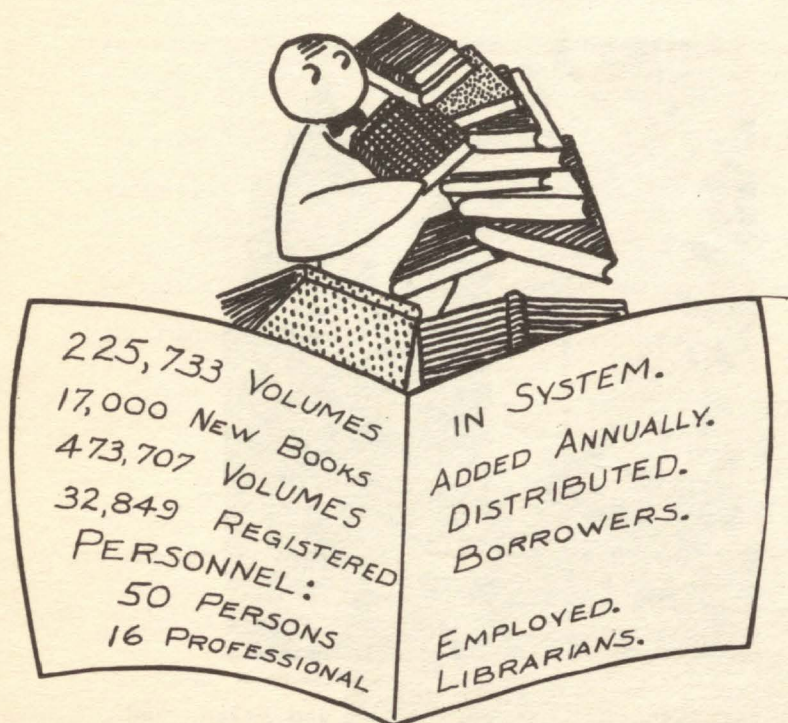
In addition to this "Information, Please" answering service, clubs can get help with their program planning and a good collection of phonograph records and 16 mm sound film is available. The hospital librarian supplies Methodist, Mercy and Parramore with books and the use of two ceiling projectors for patients who cannot use regular books.



Books and friends and spring on the steps of Central Library

Children are very important readers to our librarians. Everything possible is done to make reading fun for them. Central Library has a children's reading room and every branch has special shelves within easy reach where children's books are attractively displayed. Story hours are held at several branches during certain weeks of the year and all summer long groups of youngsters may be seen on the green lawns of our parks listening intently to stories. A reading game for older children is conducted by the library in cooperation with the Park Department.

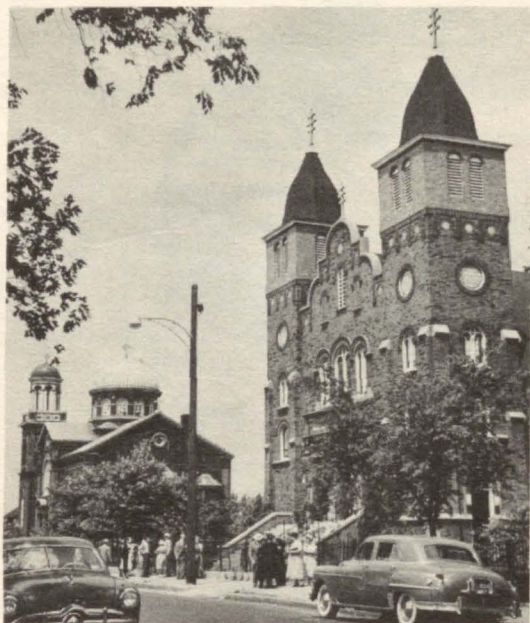
Library operations are supervised by the 7-member Library Board, who serve their city without pay.



Churches

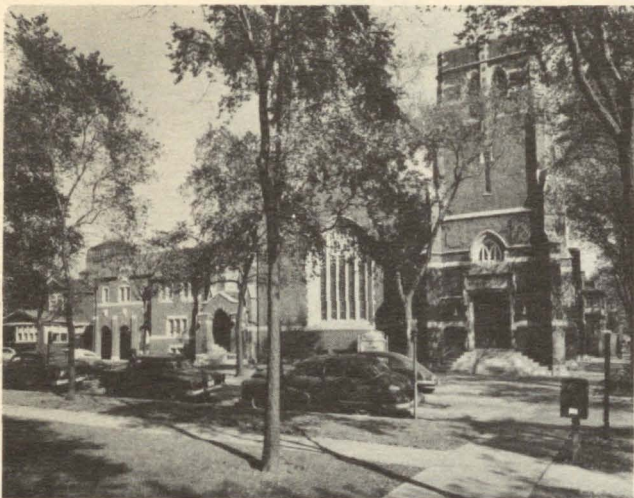


Gary seen from the air is a surprise to ground dwellers. Lake Michigan to the north is sapphire blue, sparkling with reflected light from the sun. The smoke from the steel mills forms an even pattern of parallel streaks across the sky, and the parks are large green marks as from a painter's brush. And all over the city, pointing heavenward, are the spires, towers, and the exotic, foreign-flavored domes of Gary's 135 churches.



W. P. Sealock

Greek Orthodox Church, Sts. Constantine and Helen, and St. Michael's Catholic Church of Byzantine-Slavonic Rite.



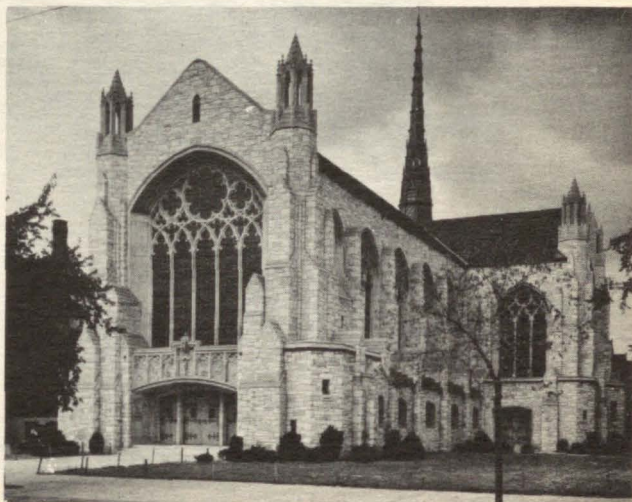
First Presbyterian Church

Crawford Photos

The first churches in Gary were Methodist Episcopal Church and the Holy Angels Church, begun with Gary in 1906. Now all Protestant denominations are represented, including the Orthodox churches of many different nations. The Roman Catholic Church has grown, too, and those of Jewish faith have erected temples of worship.

Many of our early settlers came to this country to escape religious persecution. Gary's beautiful and varied churches are the monuments they erected to our freedom of worship.

Holy Angels Church



Crawford Photos

Organizations

A recent newcomer to Gary was warned by her neighbor, "Be careful what invitations you accept! Gary has 1500 organizations and you'll find yourself a member -- or maybe an officer -- of all of them." A little exaggerated perhaps -- the lady couldn't have joined the Y.M.C.A. But it illustrates one outstanding fact about Gary's organizations: no "clique" runs them. They welcome new members and draw their leadership from all groups.

Young talent is encouraged in Gary's many art, music and dramatic groups, and thanks to this encouragement, a number of Gary people have become very successful in these fields. The Gary Symphony Orchestra and the Municipal Chorus are popular with music lovers. The Carillco Band, made up of steel mill employees, is famous nationally. Our Schools and "Y's" hold several art exhibits during the year and the Hoosier Salon, sponsored by Altrusa, offers pictures by well-known professionals.



Young campers learn to respect the flag of their country.



Good Fellows' Club of the Steel Mill provides a camp for children of mill employees.

The A.O.A.'s -- (All Out Americans) -- is an organization typical of Gary. More than 10,000 children from Gary's public and parochial schools participate, learning by doing how democracy works. This group of young people has produced an impressive number of leaders in the city's community and professional life.

Almost every national organization has a local chapter here. Some of those who work to serve the public interest are Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Optimist, League of Women Voters, the Chamber of Commerce and the Junior Chamber of Commerce. The Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A. have broad programs for serving our young people during their free hours.

The C.I.C. and the A.F. of L. representing over 70,000 working men and women of Gary and Lake County, participate in all activities to promote community welfare.

Fifty organizations, including all the social welfare agencies, civic and professional groups, belong to the Gary Community Welfare Council. The Council is one of the 21 agencies supported by the people of Gary through contributions to the Gary Community Chest.

Parks & Recreation

We have 600 acres of land in our 15 developed parks, with other properties for later development. Some of them are small neighborhood areas where mothers take their children to sun and play, while others, like Gleason and Marquette, are many-acred with a wide variety of play opportunities. Well-kept, with trees and attractive summer planting, they are oasis of quiet and beauty in the middle of a bustling, hurrying industrial town.



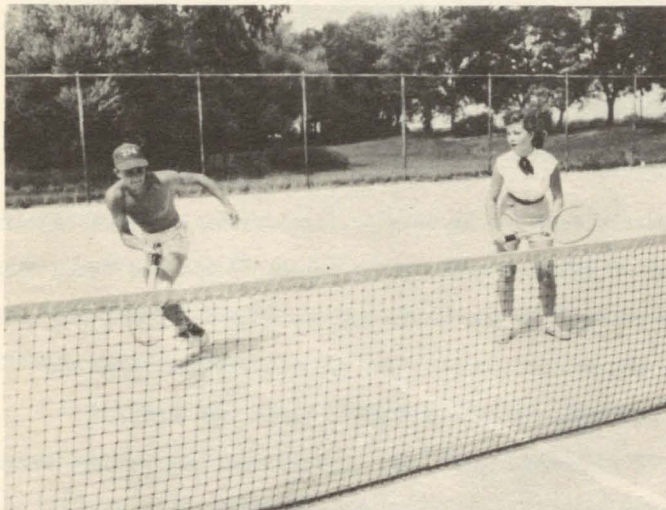
Crawford Photos

Marquette Park Pavilion is headquarters for parties and dances all year 'round.

The parks are administered by a Park Superintendent appointed by the Board of Park Commissioners. The four board members are appointed by the mayor for four-year terms and receive salaries of \$300 a year. About 25 per cent of the budget comes from the various concessions operating in the parks.

RECREATION

A Recreation Director under the Park Superintendent plans his program around the parks and school playgrounds. Each park is the focus for play in its surrounding community, and in the summertime 17 playgrounds, staffed with supervisors, help keep active youngsters off the streets.



Many of the parks have tennis courts.

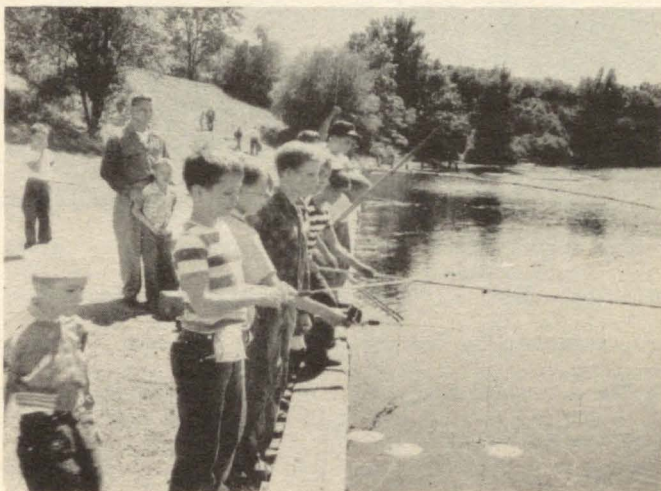
There is a fine spirit of cooperation between the parks, schools, library, churches and civic organizations in developing a good recreational program. "Little League" baseball is coming to Gary next spring under the combined sponsorship of several public-spirited clubs. In Miller, a youth center for high schoolers, sponsored by four neighborhood churches -- Protestant and Catholic -- and counceled by the park Recreational Director, is held at the Eagles Hall.



Elmer Budlove

Nearly everyone in Gary is familiar with Marquette Park and the four miles of white sandy beach. North and South Gleason Parks are well-known for their outdoor swimming pool, two golf courses, and tennis courts. But are you familiar with the special activities at the different parks and centers?

The Municipal Boys' Choir offers training to boys whose voices show promise, and produces several programs each year.



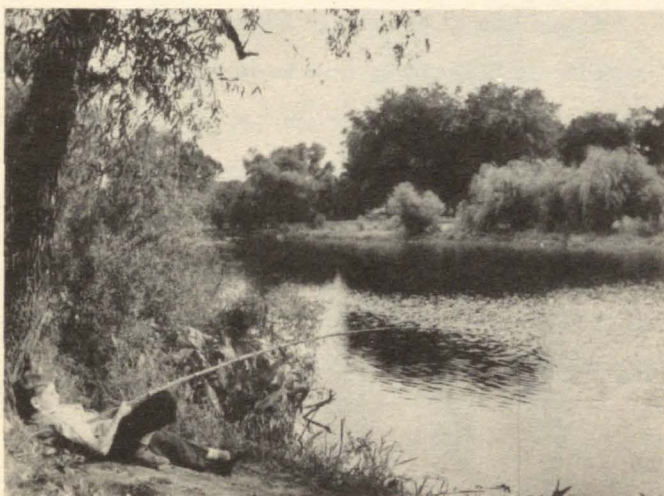
A "Fishing Rodeo" is held at Marquette Park Lagoon where children compete for prizes.



Free tennis and golf "clinics" are held each summer at Gleason Park.

At Gateway Park, in the shadow of the steel mill, are seen the active Scotchmen engaged in the favorite sport of their homeland, lawn bowling.

Few cities can offer a man such unlimited job opportunities and at the same time provide him and his family with the wide variety of vacationland pleasures that are available in Gary.



Elmer Budlove

Other folks just like to take it easy.

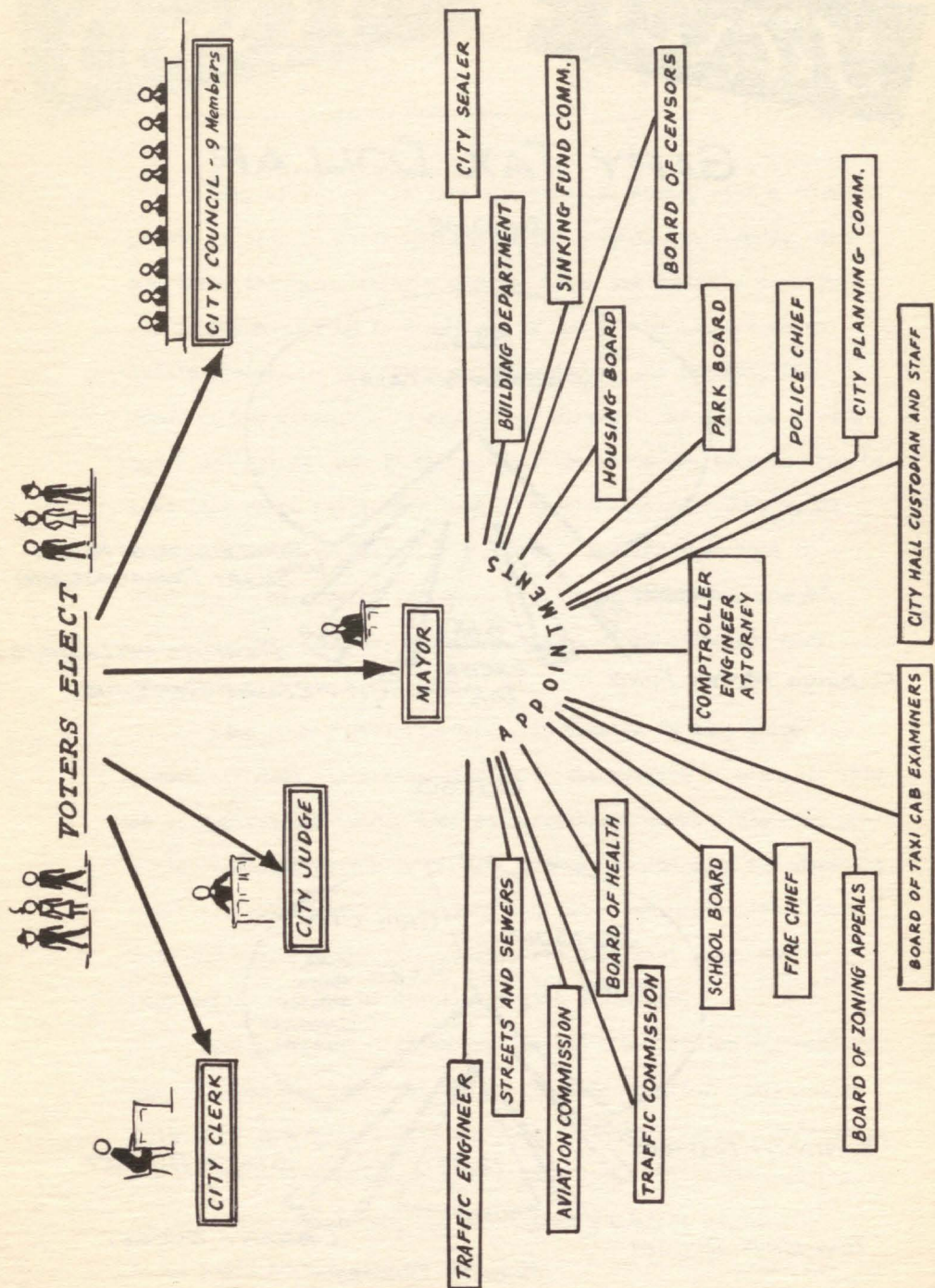
Government

Gary has a Mayor-Council form of government. The duties and powers of our mayor, council and other officials are prescribed in detail by state law and can be changed only by act of the state legislature. Thus many local problems must be referred to the state General Assembly for solution, using valuable time which could be devoted to state affairs. Amendment or revision of the constitution might bring a greater freedom to all Indiana municipal government.

The administrative branch of the government is concentrated in a single officer -- the mayor, who has power to enforce the laws of the city and state, appoint heads and employees of various departments, and perform other executive duties prescribed by state law.

The legislative branch, or Common Council, known as the City Council, is composed of nine members, six elected from their respective districts, and three elected at large. The Council is empowered to enact laws necessary for the welfare of the city within the limits prescribed by the state legislature.

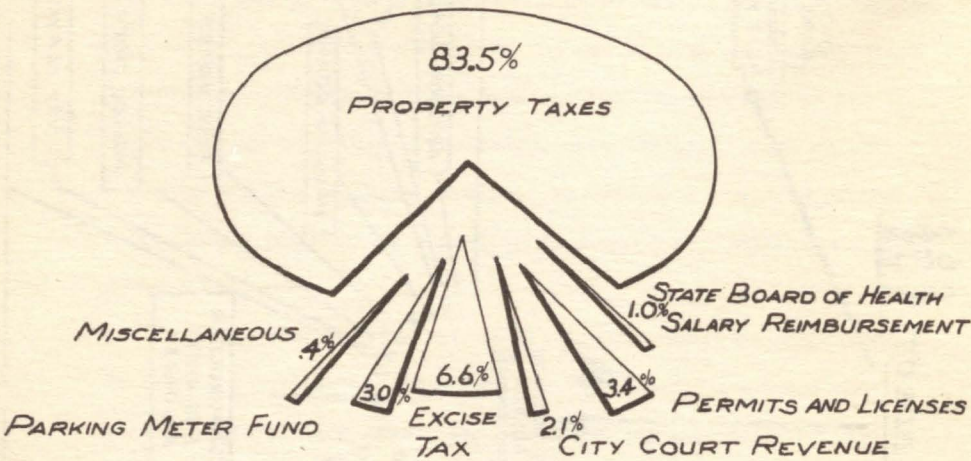
The City Judge and City Attorney comprise the judicial branch of the government. The County Prosecutor appoints a deputy to act as city prosecutor.



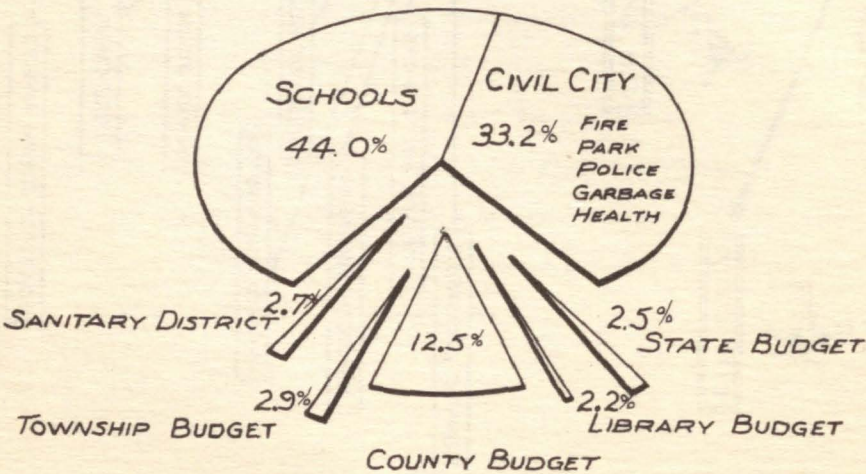
Taxes

GARY TAX DOLLAR

INCOME



OUTGO



Courts



Gary City Court is like an over-size stage, with a constant parade of players participating in its tragedy and comedy. Here are tried the minor cases where the fines are not more than \$500 and imprisonments up to one year. A few of the cases concern life's misfits -- the drunk and disorderly, the vagrant, the woman of the streets -- a shuffling, miserable group, who return again and again. But 75 per cent of the cases are traffic arrests. Last year there was a case load of approximately 12,000, 9,000 of them traffic violations. This was a heavier load than in other years because of increased traffic arrests.

Superior Courts, Numbers 3 and 4, of Lake County, hear civil cases in the Court House.

Lake County Juvenile Court, in session in Gary three days a week, handles all cases relating to the welfare of minors. This is an "assisting" rather than an "arresting" court. Whenever possible, children or adults brought before the Judge of the Juvenile Court are helped back to healthy attitudes and productive lives. Some 100 children received psychiatric help last year, and in many cases, members of the clergy gave assistance.

The majority of cases involve child neglect or delinquency. Many of them are tried privately, for this is often the turning point in a youngster's life and publicity could make it impossible for him to become adjusted to a normal life. It is interesting to note that a child who has maintained a perfect record for three years is rewarded by having the record of his arrest destroyed.

Police



The Accident Prevention and Investigation cars. We keep them too busy.

A young man in Gary who wishes to become a police officer must be a high school graduate, have a spotless record in the community, and be among the top 15 out of 200 applicants to pass the stiff Civil Service Examinations. His job in a city with Gary's "melting pot" characteristics is complex indeed. He will have to handle problems never discussed in police school: what to do while waiting for the stork, how to keep a stormy marriage from becoming a case of assault and battery, and ways to urge a young runaway to give the folks another chance. It's too bad, but he'll learn that the citizen whose life he may have saved when he stops him from speeding, will never, never thank him for that speeding ticket.

Traffic accident prevention is one of the major problems facing members of the community and the police force. Last year 43 people met sudden death on our highways. The National Safety Council estimates that it costs a community \$21,000 for every fatality -- and no one can compute the heartbreak each tragedy caused.

Why is our accident rate so high? There are two major causes. 1. Three great cross-country highways, 12, 20 and 6, and six main railroads cut directly through the city. 2. There are only four main streets to take thousands of workers to and from the industries at shift time, and these run at right angles to the cross-country highways.

What are we doing about it? The Police Chief and aroused citizens have adopted the "Three E" program to help correct these shocking conditions.

Engineering: The Gary Area Council, composed of members of the Chicago Motor Club, Industry, all the Police Captains, and the Traffic Engineer are working together to reduce this toll.

Enforcement: There has been a tightening up of traffic law enforcement. Punishment sometimes includes a course at Traffic School. Radar control has been installed to assist traffic officers in apprehending speed violators.

Education: The Police Department works closely with the schools to teach our future drivers safe habits. They assist in the driving courses, give bicycle instruction, and show films. They work with the insurance companies on an educational program and send safety pamphlets to the employees of main industries.

The Tri-State highway is now open from Hammond to Chicago. When completed to Detroit, it will reduce the traffic load now going through the city.

The Police Chief is the head of the Police Department. He is appointed by the Mayor and must have served as a member of the police force not less than five years. All 196 members of the force under him are selected through Civil Service.

The staff is divided into four divisions, a captain at the head of each: Traffic, Detective Bureau, Patrol Division, and Records and Communications. There is a narcotics and vice squad on 24-hour duty. The ten-man vice squad checks all suspected places once every shift, or three times daily.

Equipment includes one accident prevention car equipped with a loud speaker to alert day-dreaming jay walkers and careless drivers, and three accident investigation cars carrying first aid equipment. In addition, there are 40 cars, 5 trucks, 12 solo motorcycles for traffic enforcement and 7 motorcycles for parking control.

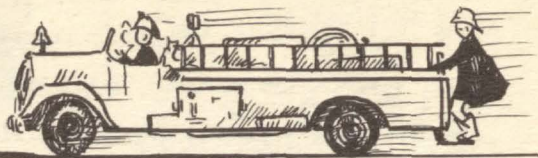
Help the Police Officer Help You! Obey Traffic Regulations.

DON'T INSIST ON YOUR OWN "RITES"!



*Finding a lost child
is one of the nicer
jobs in a policeman's
busy day.*

Fire



Gary's firemen answered 1,214 fire and other assistance calls last year. Their jobs, in addition to fighting fires, included rescuing frightened kittens from telegraph poles, puppies from drainpipes and children from "freak" tight spots. They answered 181 inhalator calls and assisted those suffering from near-drowning, heart attacks and suffocation.

Gary is fortunate that its Fire Department has modern equipment to serve its needs. There are 3 emergency ambulances that carry 5 combination inhalator-resuscitators; 2 electric aerial ladders, 2 deluge sets, 1 evacuator, (a canvas slide that can empty a building at the rate of 40 people per minute.) There are 8 fire stations, and a new one nearly completed. At least 3 additional stations are considered necessary to take care of this rapidly expanding city.



Fire Chief Zale and Mayor Mandich inspect the staff and some of the equipment at the Central Fire Station.

The Fire Prevention Bureau does an excellent job of directing a city-wide prevention program. During Fire Prevention Week, speakers are assigned to all the schools, and films from the department's library are shown. Fire fighting equipment is demonstrated at many places in the city, and an intense publicity campaign is conducted through the use of circulars and the news services. The all-year-round program includes the inspections by a full-time Building Inspector, and the Drillmaster's training program for the members of the department.

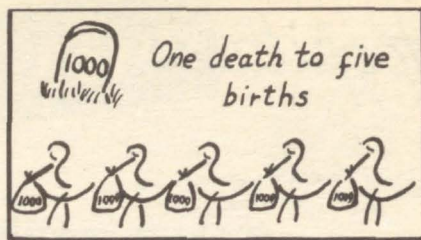
The Fire Department is replacing an out-of-date alarm system which, when completed, will improve Gary's fire insurance rating.

The Fire Chief is appointed by the Mayor and the 175 men in the department are under the merit system.



Roosevelt School children watch a demonstration of a life net during Fire Prevention Week.

Health



The small, modern building at 1427 Virginia Street, housing The Gary Board of Health, does not look too impressive, but its activities affect every one of us and make Gary a safer place in which to live. The grade-A milk we drink comes from farms which are frequently inspected by the Sanitary Department. This department is also responsible for rodent and mosquito control. The food we eat, whether bought in restaurants or in retail food handling establishments, is protected by the routine inspection of these establishments by the Sanitarians. We are protected from epidemics by the supervision and quarantine of serious contagious diseases, one of the jobs of the nurses in the Generalized Nursing Program. These nurses also give bedside care and instruction for the sick and supervise tubercular out-patients.

The Venereal Disease Clinic gives free, up-to-date treatment of syphilis and gonorrhea. Two investigators are employed who follow up contacts and keep known cases under treatment.

The Health Department plans to increase its services by establishing a free maternal and child clinic and by hiring a health educator, when necessary funds become available.

At least 2 of the 5 members of the Health Board must be doctors. They appoint the Health Director, who must be a physician experienced in public health work. The number of persons employed by the Health Department is 33.

Hospitals

Gary has two hospitals, Methodist and St. Mary's Mercy Hospital, both classified as "Class A" by the American College of Surgeons and the American Medical Association. Accredited negro doctors are on the staffs of both hospitals and this year, for the first time, negro girls are admitted into both of the nurses' training classes.

Methodist Hospital, with 235 adult beds, has greatly increased its service and capacity by adding a wing on to the original building. This past year alterations made possible an area for treating contagious diseases, and the surgical department was remodeled. A new pediatric unit has been completed and an area for psychiatric cases is available for future use, but not yet staffed. The Methodist School of Nursing, which is affiliated with Indiana University, has 61 student nurses enrolled this year.

St. Mary's Mercy Hospital, with 250 adult beds, is well equipped with every essential facility and has recently improved and increased its services. A new cafeteria has replaced the old dining areas, a new dietary laboratory of use by the student nurses has been incorporated into the hospital, and as a safety factor, all stairways have been closed off with fire doors. Enrollment in the School of Nursing is 65.

Public Welfare



The Lake County Department of Public Welfare assists in many different situations where aid is needed. Where ever possible, this aid is used as a "Helping Hand" until the person or people can regain full independence. One of the biggest jobs of the Department is educating and counseling, a major factor in helping people help themselves.

In Gary, the number of those requiring aid has been decreasing. Improved economic conditions and wider social insurance coverage has resulted in fewer old people and dependent children needing assistance.

Last year only 88 dependent and neglected children were cared for in institutions, while 425 lived in boarding homes. Not only does this cost less -- \$49 a month for foster care, \$60.50 for institutional care -- but a child placed in one of these carefully selected homes receives the love and attention impossible in even the finest institutions.

Last year 40 children were placed in adoptive homes. The children and the new parents have a greater chance for happiness because of the care exercised in selecting the right child for the right home.

The staff of the Lake County Department of Public Welfare consists of 147 persons who are chosen for their jobs by the merit system. The members of the Lake County Board of Public Welfare are appointed by the Judge of the Juvenile Court and serve without pay.

Housing



Is Gary growing! Just take a drive in any direction and see for yourself how whole communities of attractive new homes have sprung up almost overnight. Last year, 1,114 dwelling units valued at \$9,668,000, were built in Gary. This rate of growth exceeds that of all surrounding communities. There is still room for new homes in most sections of the city, but lots with all improvements are rapidly disappearing from the market. The rate of building makes it easier to understand why Gary finds itself outgrowing many of its institutions.



Ralph Towers

Here is one of Gary's fine residential districts.

Like most large, rapidly growing cities, Gary has a slum problem. The health and fire departments cooperate with the building inspectors to enforce correction of dangerous conditions in existing homes and apartment buildings. Dwellings that cannot be made safe to live in are demolished.

The Housing Authority of Gary, composed of public-spirited men who serve without pay, deals exclusively with the elimination of slums and the housing of families of low incomes. At present, the Authority operates three housing projects, with 787 family units, and 500 new dwelling units are being constructed in two areas where the need is greatest. People of low income, who are being evicted by the City Slum Elimination Program, or those living in substandard or overcrowded conditions, or who are without housing through no fault of their own, will be the first admitted to the new units.



The Dorie Miller Housing Project

Utilities



Our first utility, the Gary Heat, Light and Water Company, a U. S. Steel subsidiary, was merged with Northern Indiana Public Service Company in 1942. The Steel Company engineers did a good job planning the original "life" lines to the city and for a long time the Steel Company supplied the entire city with electricity and coke oven gas from its own plant.

The record of achievement of Gary's privately-owned utility company is a good example of the free enterprise system. With no interruption in service, Gary's electricity was changed from 25 to 60 cycle current. No city this size had ever before attempted such an enormous job: all electrical appliances in every house had to be adjusted to use the new current. After five years, at a cost of several millions of dollars, the project was completed. Modernization of our utilities included conversion from coke oven gas to natural gas in 1949.

"Nipsco," with a well trained personnel of 400, offers unparalleled customer service. Gas appliances are adjusted promptly and without charge and modern equipment makes possible quick service to damaged power lines.

All utilities are regulated by the Public Service Commission of Indiana.

Water



One hot day last summer, thirsty lawns and thirsty people used 31,200,000 gallons -- as much water as an average-size town uses in a year. Gary uses 6,396,830,000 gallons a year.

The Gary-Hobart Water Company purchased the water division from Nipsco in 1951. The company is continuing the expansion and modernization program started by Nipsco, and by September of 1953 the new plant will be completed.

Water, drawn from Lake Michigan, will be treated with several chemicals in two great settling basins and then passed through a rapid-type sand filter. No longer will we find bits of flora and fauna in our drinking water, and the not-so-funny taste (which comes not from chlorine, but from phenol) will be eliminated. Should the public want fluoridization of their drinking water in the future, only slight modification of the plant will be necessary.

Every year since 1946, a half million dollars has been spent for the conversion of the plant. This year the water rates, which have not been raised since 1912, were increased about 76 per cent for the minimum user; 51 per cent for the average user, and 35 per cent for the larger user.

Telephone



Illinois Bell Telephone Company supplies Gary with more than 45,673 telephones. A serious shortage of lead and copper, due to World War II and our current defense program, has slowed down the manufacture of many essential telephone parts. In spite of this difficulty, the telephone company has met Gary's ever-increasing demand for more and better means of communication. The Gary branch of the telephone company employs 450 people.

Streets



The Street Department in a city the size of Gary is "big business." Separate budgets are made for each division of the department and the combined figure is about \$1,504,585. Jobs done by the department are street and alley cleaning, garbage collection, sewer and street maintenance. It is also the job of the department to make all the signs for the city and to do work for the Park Department.

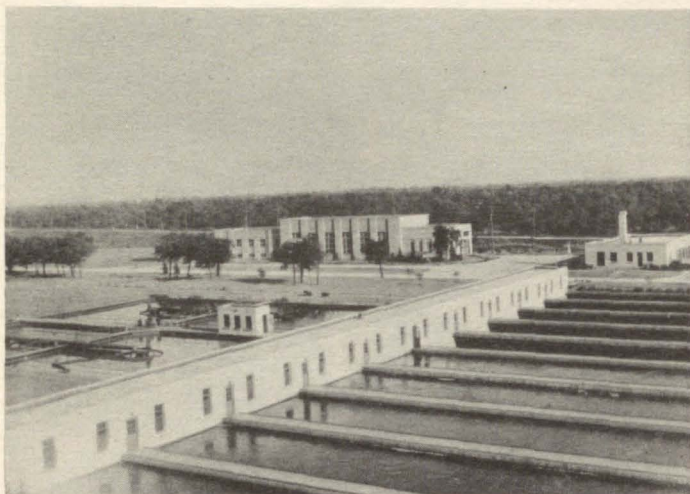
Gary's Street Department is considered one of the best equipped in the state. There are 40 trucks, 3 graders, 2 cranes, several sewer cleaners, mowing machines, leaf collectors and 10 plowing units. Last year badly damaged sections of 49 streets were repaired, paid for by our gasoline taxes. 200 men are employed in the department. At their head is a Street Commissioner, appointed by the Mayor.

Sanitary District

Gary's sewage disposal system employs the modern method of speeded-up, natural "digestion" of harmful waste matter by bacterial action which changes it into harmless substance. This is considered the newest and best method of sewage treatment. The system has two economy features, too -- it provides enough gas to operate over 90 per cent of its equipment and it produces black loam suitable for fill and fertilizer. Many cities sell this fertilizer, but here it is free.

The Main Sewage Treatment Plant was built, and the Miller Plant rehabilitated in 1940, at a cost of \$1,901,739.57. This important step was taken because Gary and surrounding towns, through inadequate sewage systems, were polluting the waters at the south end of Lake Michigan. Gary was the first community to complete the job and included in its main plant garbage grinding equipment. The main plant can take care of a population up to 170,000, and ample room has been provided for future expansion.

The Gary Sanitary District, a separate taxing unit, consists of the Main Treatment Plant, the Imhoff Trickling Filter Plant at Miller, lift stations, and connecting sewers. The Board of Sanitary Commissioners is composed of three persons, one selected by the State Board of Health, the City Engineer, and the third selected by the other two.



The Main Sewage Treatment Plant.

Elections

Gary schools serve our American Democracy by stressing good citizenship in the every-day lives of our children. It is the hope of the schools that these children will grow into adults who "actively" accept their responsibilities and privileges as free Americans. These responsibilities and privileges are voting, obeying the law, paying taxes, serving on juries, responding to the call to colors, avoiding group prejudices, supporting schools, teaching citizenship in the homes, and working for community improvement.

Of these, voting is one of the most important. A vote is our say in how our government is run. The League of Women Voters, a national, non-partisan organization, encourages people to become active, informed voters.

Did YOU vote in the last election? 83 per cent of Gary's 72,854 registered voters did -- a record we're all proud of.

WHO can vote? Anyone, if he is (1) 21 years or over, (2) a citizen of the United States, (3) a resident of the state for six months, of the township for 60 days, of the precinct for 30 days immediately preceding election, (4) AND WHO IS PROPERLY REGISTERED.

WHEN can you register? January, February, March, June, July, August, September and December.

WHERE can you register? At the County Clerk's office in the Court House or at one of the convenient traveling boards. Provision is made for absentee registering as well as absentee voting.



Stop!



Think!

and then



Vote!

Future Outlook

This has been just a brief glimpse of Gary's growth and development. What about the future? There is no limit to what it can be. Every important ingredient is here: transportation, natural resources, location, labor, supplying industries, markets. More than any other ingredient, the people who live here are the most important assets the city has. It is in the hearts and minds of these people that we can find the answers to the questions "How Big?" "How Fast?" "How Great?" "How Good?" It's all up to us.

It isn't an easy job, either. Gary has had an ample share of "growing pains." We have had our traffic and slum elimination problems, and the absorption and Americanization of people of every race, country and creed. Another problem, like the one facing millions of mothers every year, is the way our boy, Gary, keeps out-growing his "clothes": too few schools, parks, streets, hospital rooms, fire stations, etc.

It is exciting to live in a city that is growing rapidly because each one of us is important. We're in on the ground floor and can have plenty to say about the kind of a city we want Gary to be. We can speak through our organizations, through our P.T.A.'s, through our elected representatives. And we can talk, but **LOUD**, at the polls on election days. Gary's future? It's all up to us.



THE ATHENIAN OATH

WE WILL NEVER BRING DISGRACE
TO THIS OUR CITY, BY ANY ACT
OF DISHONESTY OR COWARDICE,
NOR EVER DESERT OUR SUFFER-
ING COMRADES IN THE RANKS; WE
WILL FIGHT FOR THE IDEALS AND
SACRED THINGS OF THE CITY,
BOTH ALONE AND WITH MANY;
WE WILL REVERE AND OBEY THE
CITY'S LAWS AND DO OUR BEST
TO INCITE A LIKE RESPECT IN
THOSE ABOVE US WHO ARE
PRONE TO ANNUL OR SET THEM
AT NAUGHT; WE WILL STRIVE UN-
CEASINGLY TO QUICKEN THE PUB-
LIC'S SENSE OF CIVIC DUTY, THUS
IN ALL THESE WAYS WE WILL
TRANSMIT THIS CITY NOT ONLY
NOT LESS, BUT GREATER, AND
MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN IT WAS
TRANSMITTED TO US.

This is the Athenian Oath, written 2,500 years ago.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The cost of publishing this booklet has been shared by organizations representing virtually everyone in Gary. Without their financial assistance, this report could not have been so widely distributed. Our grateful thanks to the Chamber of Commerce, the C.I.O., the A.F. of L., the Gary Industrial Foundation, and many businesses and industries.

Many people outside the League of Women Voters helped in the preparation of "THIS IS GARY." Mr. Michael W. Madden, C.P.A., supplied some of the figures for our tax dollar. Mr. W. P. Cottingham, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. E. C. Rosenau, Executive Secretary of the Gary Industrial Foundation, and Mr. Bancroft Yarrington of U. S. Steel Corporation, gave suggestions for our chapter on industries. Mr. Orville Kincaid of the C.I.O., and Mr. Stephen Toth of the A.F. of L., supplied a history of labor's achievements in Gary. Mr. Oral Craft, engineer, furnished the information for the map of Gary. We wish to thank Mr. H. B. Snyder of the Gary Post-Tribune, for supplying many of our fine pictures. Other pictures were given to us by members of the Gary Photographic Society. Mr. Eugene Jewart, of the Gary Blue Print Company, gave valuable assistance in solving our technical problems. We are especially proud of the art work donated by Mr. Glenn Wilson, of the U. S. Steel Corporation, and the sketches done by Lee Rein, one of our League members.

It would have been impossible to get the information contained in "THIS IS GARY" without the fine cooperation we received from the City Administration, including the Police,

Fire, Health, Parks and Recreation, Building and Housing Departments. Mayor Peter Mandich gave his full support of the project and Comptroller Metro Holovachka supplied much of the budget information we needed. Members of the School and Library administrations spent much time helping us obtain the facts for those chapters. Many other people and organizations shared in preparing this booklet. We are happy to be able to thank them all, and all the members of the League of Women Voters who have worked tirelessly to complete this service to the community.

